



New Jersey Libertarian

Two phone calls from a Libertarian save NJ Town Several Million Dollars

May 8, 2003 www.lp.org

Bylaws Change to be Considered at General Meeting

At the May 18, 2003 meeting of the State Board, a motion was proposed and passed regarding a change to the Bylaws.

The motion was made to place on the agenda for the July General meeting the following bylaws amendment:

4. a. Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the state of New Jersey who certifies in writing that he or she opposes the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Thereafter, such a person shall become a member upon payment of dues to the NJLP or to the National Libertarian Party, or upon declaration of party affiliation as 'Libertarian' as provided by law.

Discussion: The proposed change alters the last sentence of section 4.a. which currently reads: "Thereafter, such a person shall become a member upon payment of dues to the NJLP or to the National Libertarian Party." The change would extend membership to those people who choose to affiliate (register) as Libertarian without the payment of dues. The purpose of this amendment is to include those people as members who might not otherwise join because of fiscal reasons.

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Libertarian activist Bill Schetlick saved taxpayers in the New Jersey town of Flemington several million dollars -- and all it took was two telephone calls.

Town voters rejected a school bond issue that would have added "several additional millions of dollars in debt" to the town budget. The vote against the bond issue was 1,304 to 1,302.

That two-vote difference was thanks to Schetlick, who had decided to do a little telephone lobbying on April 15 — the day of the vote.

"I telephoned two retired folks who generally go to the polls to vote on such matters," said Schetlick. "When I got through to them, they told me that their car was in the shop and that they would not get to the polls that day.

"I offered to drive them myself, opining that every vote would surely count in this matter. They agreed, and I drove them to and from the polls. They voted. Nice folks."

The next day, Schetlick read the news that the bond issue had failed by -- yes -- exactly two votes.

"Funny how that stuff happens sometimes," he said. "I'm feeling pretty good."

Schetlick said he decided to make the phone calls because "typically, fewer than 20% of the total registered voters in the town show up to vote in these plebiscites; therefore, each vote carries added significance.

"Boy, it was really true this time..."

The bond issue, had it passed, would have raised "several additional millions of dollars in debt, concurrently increasing our property taxes, to build some new and additional facilities for the local public high schools," said Schetlick.

"The local educrats, teachers, administrators, and construction unions -- those that stood to directly gain if the bond issue was passed -- were all in favor."

Unfortunately, said Schetlick, the bond issue may not stay defeated: The same issue will be on the ballot again in September.

"I'll have to go out again and start all over," he said. "Count on it."

Schetlick, 51, is a retired lawyer and longtime Libertarian Party activist. He joined the party "circa 1973-74," and served as New Jersey LP State Chair in 1974-1975. He also ran for State Assembly in 1976.

Now, he said, he spends "a great deal of time and effort attempting to influence and hopefully redefine the parameters of the political debate in the N.J. media. And to a more or less degree, they are listening."

Schetlick has also recently started attending Flemington town meetings -- and he is now known as "that Libertarian guy who's always smiling, politely disagreeing, and otherwise making trouble," he said.

"So be it. You only live once."

Jury Sides with Gun Industry

Tom Hays, The Associated Press

NEW YORK (May 15) - A federal jury has determined that 45 gun manufacturers and distributors shouldn't be held liable in a lawsuit brought by the NAACP alleging their products fuel street violence that victimizes minorities.

The jury deliberated for five days before reaching its verdict Wednesday in the closely watched case, which now goes to the judge for a final decision. The panel was unable to reach a verdict regarding 23 other defendants.

Chris Cox, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, called the ruling "common sense" and said the lawsuit was "aimed at bankrupting a law-abiding American industry by holding them liable for the actions of criminals."

The verdict followed more than five weeks of testimony in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's lawsuit against 68 defendants, including Smith & Wesson Corp., Glock Inc. and other major gun makers and distributors.

The defendants argued it was unfair and unlawful to hold them liable for the criminal use of a legal product. They also said legislatures - not courts - should set standards for gun sales.

"The jury understood that these law-abiding companies had done absolutely nothing to cause a public nuisance," said Lawrence Keane, general counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

NAACP attorney Elisa Barnes said the verdict showed the case was too complicated for a jury to decide. The judge could still rule in favor of the NAACP based on "the facts and the record," she said.

The lawsuit alleged the firearms industry knew corrupt dealers were supplying guns to criminals in minority communities and did nothing to stop the practice. Rather than monetary damages, the NAACP sought injunctions that would place sweeping restrictions on buyers and sellers of handguns.

The plaintiffs built much of their case on previously sealed data - provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms under court order - detailing sales histories of weapons recovered at crime scenes in New York state from 1996 to 2000.

An expert witness for the NAACP testified that an analysis found 11 percent of handguns sold in 1996 were used in rapes, robberies, assaults and murders by 2000.

The defendants knew they were feeding a pool of illegal handguns and "purposely turned their head away from the problem," Barnes told the jury. "They said, 'It's not our worry.'"

Defense experts claimed the analysis was flawed. They said their own studies found that most guns used by criminals come from a secondary market of used or stolen guns.

"Nobody wants to have someone selling to criminals," James Dorr, attorney for Sturm, Ruger & Co., said during closing arguments. "This industry certainly doesn't."

Since 1998, more than two dozen cities, counties and states have sued gun makers, many claiming the manufacturers allowed weapons to reach criminals because of irresponsible marketing.

Many suits have been dismissed or dropped, but Congress is considering legislation backed by the White House and the NRA to protect gun makers and sellers from lawsuits arising from the criminal or unlawful use of their products.

Can you guess...?

- Orson Bean
- Dean Cameron
- Drew Carey
- Dixie Carter
- Tommy Chong
- Edward Herrmann
- Kenny Kramer
- Leah Lall
- John Larroquette
- Denis Leary
- Sam Longoria
- Russell Means
- Sean Morley
- Trey Parker
- David Ruprecht
- Aaron Russo
- Kurt Russell
- Tom Selleck
- Howard Stern
- Matt Stone
- Tracy Torme
- Jimmie "JJ" Walker
- Wil Wheaton

Any idea what the common denominator is, in the list of celebrities above?

If you guessed "libertarians", you're right.

For other famous libertarians, check out the Advocates for Self Government site at self-gov.org.



Happy Anniversary!

The cartoon at the left depicts the end of the first “war on some drugs”. June 1, 2003 will mark the 70th anniversary of New Jersey ratifying the 21st Amendment, which repealed alcohol prohibition.

December 5, 2003 will mark the 70th anniversary of enough states having ratified the 21st that the 18th amendment actually was repealed.

How about the NJLP “celebrating” these anniversaries by somehow commemorating either or both, perhaps by simply passing a resolution or perhaps by doing more?

Announcements

Volunteer Editor Needed

Our newsletter is professionally produced every month. However because it accounts for our greatest expense we are currently seeking a volunteer editor. If you possess basic computer and writing skills, and are interested in volunteering for the position of newsletter editor, please contact me at chair@njlp.org.

Editor Deb Sackett and Wallnet have done a great job putting the newsletter on-line. If you'd like to receive it on-line, thereby receiving it earlier than print subscribers and saving postage and printing costs, contact Editor@njlp.org

Emerson Ellett,
Chair, NJLP

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From The Chair

By NJLP State Chair Emerson Ellett



A hearty thanks to our candidates who have been nominated since the March convention: Michael Conforto, Cape May Court House, 1st District Assembly; Judy White, Galloway Twp., 2d District Senate; Garth Shannon, Stratford, 5th District Assembly; Paul Makar, Cliffwood Beach, 13th District Senate; Ray Cragle, Princeton Junction, 14th District Senate; Elizabeth Campbell, Edison, 18th District Assembly; George Wilson, Boonton Twp., 25th District Assembly; and Jay Edgar, Cream Ridge, 30th District Assembly! And thanks to Len Flynn who offered the use of his house and phones for the call-a-thon that recruited many of our new candidates

If everyone nominated this year gets on the ballot we'll field thirteen state legislative candidates, one freeholder candidate (Len Flynn, Monmouth County) and one local candidate (John Taylor, Highlands Borough Council).

Bob Hull is certainly doing his part to get the Libertarian Party name in front of the voters. Not only is he running for Assembly himself, but at his own expense he is mailing petitions to members in the districts where we have candidates. If everyone who receives a petition gets signatures and returns it to Bob properly notarized we'll have no problem at all in getting on the ballot. Unfortunately people sometimes forget to take action. Last year, for example, a candidate missed the ballot by a tiny number of signatures because his fellow Libertarians failed to respond to the petition-by-mail campaign. Now don't forget, y'all!

Election 2004 and federal campaigns are coming up fast, so it's worth mentioning that candidate support is available not only from the NJLP but from national as well. National has sent a campaign packet to each of our candidates this year. "Libertarian Political Action" is a 40-page compendium of techniques for effective campaigning. It covers everything from preparing to run, petitioning, organizing the campaign team and reaching the voter. Other National materials include an 18-page booklet on current issues, and information on raising money, campaign activities and outreach materials for sale. We assist candidates financially via our State Fund, and later this year we'll be asking for your help to fill the coffers. (We have a Federal Fund for U.S. House and Senate candidates as well.)

How many of you got a tax refund from your rich Uncle in DC? Want to spend it on freedom? Several companies have campaign management software that will enable us to run professional campaigns. But unless you'll be using the software yourself I recommend you make your gift contingent upon someone volunteering to use it. So go for it! Your offer could be just the thing to ignite someone's enthusiasm, maybe even your own!

Chris Wuestefeld is doing a great job in Hunterdon County fighting the Delaware Valley school board which plans another referendum on a \$30 million proposal identical to the one rejected by voters in March. Chris helped write a 36-page "Minority Report," which he said the school board did not seriously consider. The board vote rejecting it was predetermined. "Had it been anything more than a staged event, there should have been some discussion among them," he was quoted as saying in the April 30 *Express Times*.

We have a ton of members to be proud of. Bob Heitner is cheerfully fielding questions from people who call our 800 number. Rob Tannen has offered to host a welcome party for new members. Andrea Nalodny with an assist from Vic Kaplan has developed a Libertarian Student Organization flyer for college students; for a master copy contact Andrea at cyrelia@clubaa.com. County chairs and candidates need on-line access to members in their area? They'll have it, thanks to Jay Boucher's programming skills. Elizabeth Macron has added Mary Ruwart to the speaker's roster for our Convention next March. The indefatigable Bill Schetlick is busy educating pundits and politicians about the principled application of rights to societal problems. Bill was quoted in Paul Mulshine's May 1 column as saying "politicians have no idea of what rights are anymore," a truism to libertarians but apparently news to Star-Ledger readers. Good going, guys!

But the assault on freedom continues. A2587, a bill to raise the NJ smoking age to 21, is just one of the anti-youth rights bills introduced in the NJ Legislature. Assemblyman Cryan, the co-sponsor of A2587, also introduced A1611, a bill to prohibit the sale or purchase of pesticides by minors. Wanted – someone else we can be proud of, someone who can lend a hand in opposing such legislation.

Please contact your county chair, myself (chair@njlp.org; 732 774-3684) or a Steering Committee member if you are able to help in any way.

The Strategic Plan and the New Jersey Libertarian Party

By Dan Karlan

This month's strategy is at the center of a controversy, and I hereby invite NJLP members to participate in the discussion swirling around it. The strategy – # 14: Develop and implement an internal program of ideological education – was formally removed from the National Strategic Plan at the LNC's most recent meeting. There was no prior indication that such a move was to be proposed, and several SPT members on the LNC voted against the motion (including our Regional Representative). With this month's column, I hope to open the discussion that appears to have been lacking at the national level.

When SPT members were polled on their views on the Libertarian Party's strengths, the overwhelming favorite was "Core Philosophy." But there is some concern that new recruits to the party over the years, unaware of this integrating core philosophy, have attempted to 'dilute' our message, either for political or other reasons. It was the recognition that we cannot afford to risk diluting the fundamental strength of the Party that impelled me, and most other SPT members, to incorporate Strategy 14.

But the possible tactics listed constitute a much smaller list than for most of the other strategies, and appear on the face to presume a degree of unfamiliarity with our ideas that might be perceived as elitist – veterans contrasted with rookies. To the extent the strategy comes across as perpetuating or imposing a division between those within the party who 'really' understand the philosophy and the innocent newcomers, we can quickly turn away people, rather than growing. The "hard core" versus the "pragmatist" faction also is embodied in this Strategy and the recent controversy.

So several nagging questions remained. The wording of this Strategy was a compromise, but there have been no attempts to improve the language. Is the proposed strategy really the best way to sustain the core philosophy? Would an alternate wording make it clearer what the Strategic Planning Team was trying to express? And at the state and local levels, how might this strategy, assuming some kernel of the idea is worthwhile, be promoted?

Thoughts, people?

Strategy 14: Develop and Implement an Internal Program of Ideological Education

SPT recommends that the national LP develop a formal program of internal education for the LP support base. The support of the LNC, state, and local LP organizations is critical in delivering this program to the LP's support base.

SPT's desire to welcome anyone in the "libertarian quadrant" into the LP carries with it a need to make sure that those drawn to the LP understand and identify with our ideas as fully as possible. SPT believes that exposing new LP supporters who are somewhere in the "libertarian quadrant" to a variety of libertarian ideas will – over time – lead individuals to hold beliefs more fully consistent with our ideology.

Possible Tactics:

- Educate members about core libertarian ideas
- Educate members about the application of core libertarian ideas to practical policies
- Keep core documents in view of the LP support base

As the national LP – and, it is hoped, its affiliates – implements plans to welcome warmly individuals whose political views fall within the "Libertarian quadrant," SPT urges affiliated state and local parties to join the national LP in adopting internal programs to provide ideological education to these newcomers.



Hunterdon, Del Val court voters again

Wednesday, April 30, 2003, The Express-Times

By PETER HALL

ALEXANDRIA TWP. -- Delaware Valley Regional High School officials will ask voters again to approve a \$9.8 million renovation and expansion project defeated in a December referendum.

Voters in Delaware Valley's five sending school districts will go to the polls Sept. 30 at the same time as voters in the Hunterdon Central Regional High School District. School officials there are reworking a \$30 million bond proposal voters shot down in March.

Both districts have been embroiled in a contentious debate over what the high schools need to cope with enrollments that are projected to grow in coming years.

Delaware Valley Regional school board members, at a meeting Monday, addressed the concerns of an opposition group contained in a 36-page document dubbed "The Minority Report."

School board President Bill Martin said the board found no compelling arguments against the construction project it had proposed in March. Although the proposal was defeated with a 2,009-1,856 vote, the board voted Tuesday to make an identical proposal in September.

Martin said making no changes ensures that the district will receive the same promise of a \$3 million grant under New Jersey's Educational Facilities Financing Act.

"If we modified the program at all, we would have to reapply to the state (for the grant) and there's no guarantee that we would get anything," Martin said.

But a chief opponent of the proposal said the school board did not seriously consider the findings in "The Minority Report" and that Tuesday's vote had a predetermined outcome.

"Had it been anything more than a staged event, there should have been some discussion among them," said Chris Wuestfeld of Alexandria Township, who signed the report.

Wuestfeld was one of 40 members of district facilities expansion committee that met during the summer of 2002 to develop a proposal for the last referendum. The committee's proposal was drastically scaled back from a \$24 million plan defeated in March 2002 and a \$26 million plan rejected in December 2001.

Wuestfeld, Holland Township resident Tom Ganley and four other members of the "minority" objected to the inclusion of plans to expand the school's kitchens, add new art, science and foods rooms, create a large media center and add eight general purpose classrooms.

At the meeting Tuesday, Martin and other school board members said all of those items are required to serve a student body that exceeds the school's capacity according to state education department standards and is projected to keep growing.

Delaware Valley currently enrolls about 750 students from Alexandria, Holland and Kingwood townships and Frenchtown and Milford. The enrollment is projected to grow to 860 by September.

"The fact of the matter is that every room is being used at or above capacity," Martin said.

Wuestfeld called the board's response to the report a "fig leaf" to cover its accountability to the public as it proceeds with the fourth referendum.

"If they didn't say anything and just went out for a fourth vote that would put them in a very bad position," he said.

Wuestfeld said that he and other opponents of the expansion plan to campaign against it again as the election day approaches. Martin said the school board will use a number of methods to educate voters on the need for the expansion project.

"We're most certainly going to try to convince them," Martin said.

Hunterdon Central officials announced Tuesday that they will also hold another referendum in September but how the proposal will differ from the one defeated March 11 is unclear, school board Vice President Joan Wolsiefer said.

The \$30 million plan relied on a \$10.5 million state grant and \$3 million from the sale of a building to Hunterdon County Polytech to offset the cost to taxpayers.

Still voters rejected the proposal's \$16.5 million local share, and district officials suspect a plan to build a new auditorium was one of the main reasons. The new plan will likely call for the renovation of the existing auditorium, but the district still needs more classroom space, Wolsiefer said.

The district enrolls about 2,700 students from Delaware, East Amwell, Raritan and Readington townships and Flemington. Hunterdon Central's enrollment is projected to grow to 3,000 by 2007, Wolsiefer said.

Reporter Peter Hall can be reached at 610-258-7171 or by e-mail at phall@express-times.com.

Show your true colors in NJ

At long last, you can register as a Libertarian. Fill out the form below and mail it to your county election board.

Atlantic County

1333 Atlantic Ave., 4th Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Bergen County

1 Bergen County Plaza, Room 310
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Burlington County

P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Camden County

P.O. Box 1066
Camden, NJ 08101

Cape May County

10-12 W. Mechanic Street
Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210

Cumberland County

60 Broad St. W., Suite 210
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Essex County

33 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Gloucester County

P.O. Box 352
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Hudson County

595 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Hunterdon County

P.O. Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-9952

Mercer County

P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650

Middlesex County

777 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605

Monmouth County

300 Halls Mill Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

Morris County

P.O. Box 900
Morristown, NJ 07963-0900

Ocean County

P.O. Box 2006
Toms River, NJ 08754-2006

Passaic County

311 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Room 103
Paterson, NJ 07503

Salem County

90 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079-9856

Somerset County

20 Grove Street
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262

Sussex County

18 Church Street
Newton, NJ 07860-9965

Union County

271 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Warren County

413 Second Street
Belvidere, NJ 07823



State of New Jersey Political Party Affiliation Declaration Form

I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, do hereby declare that I wish to affiliate with the following political party:

- ☐ Democratic* ☐ Republican*
☐ Green Party ☐ Libertarian Party ☐ Natural Law Party
☐ Reform Party ☐ U.S. Constitution Party

OR

I, being a registered voter at the address listed below, wish to formally disaffiliate with any political party:

- ☐ Independent

Last Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Date of Birth: (month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____

New Jersey Residence:

Street _____ Apt. No. _____

Municipality _____

County _____ Zip Code _____

Signature or mark of registered voter _____

Date _____

"If you are a registered member of the Green Party, Libertarian Party, Natural Law Party, Reform Party, U.S. Constitution Party or an Independent, you cannot vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary. Declaration must be filed no later than 50 days preceding the primary in which the voter wishes to vote. A newly registered voter or a voter who has never voted in a primary election, can affiliate with the Democratic or Republican Party on the day of the Primary."

v11.12.02



New Jersey Department of
Law & Public Safety



Division of
Elections
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--Claire Wolfe*

As featured on Free-Market.Net, LewRockwell.com, "The Libertarian Enterprise," "The Sierra Times," Anti-State.Com, and Brian Wilson, KSFO Radio...

"The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to a single state of the U.S. to secure a free society there. We will accomplish this by first reforming state law, opting out of federal mandates, and finally negotiating directly with the federal government for appropriate political autonomy. We will be a community of freedom-loving individuals and families, and create a shining example of liberty for the rest of the nation and the world." (from the Free State Project website, www.freestateproject.com)

The Free State Project is a **new** strategy for freedom. Rather than continuing the same failed strategies aimed at bringing Washington, D.C. to the light, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state. What can be done in a single state? A great deal. We could repeal state taxes and wasteful state government programs. We could end the collaboration between state and federal law enforcement officials in enforcing unconstitutional federal laws. We could end asset forfeiture and abuses of eminent domain. We could privatize utilities and end inefficient regulations and monopolies. Then we could negotiate directly with the federal government for more autonomy. In other countries, provinces have obtained the right to opt out of national programs and receive a tax rebate instead. We could do the same.

Where will the Free State Project succeed where others have failed? First, we aren't asking for "donations" in exchange for your participation; the F.S.P. is not a scheme for making money. Second, we formulate strategy and policy by consulting the membership; unlike some other failed "free nation" attempts, this is not some cult of personality. Third, we will choose our destination rationally and by looking at all the available evidence. The state where we will move will be decided by a vote of the full F.S.P. membership after research has been done on all the candidate states. The vote will be conducted according to the method of Cumulative Count, which more closely approximates the ideal of individual choice than simple majority rule.

The Free State Project unequivocally rejects violence, racism, and fraud. We are a peaceful, legal group, and we support working within the electoral process.

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Mark Your Calendar Now!

New Jersey Libertarian 2004 Annual Convention

March 26th and 27th, 2004
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Speakers: Dean Ahmad
John Berthoud
Mary Ruwart LP Presidential
Candidates

Look for details in future

Calendar

- ❖ Steering Committee – June 10,
location to be determined, at
7PM
- ❖ General Meeting – July 5
(Saturday) at the Flynn
residence

Notable and Quotable Libertarian - Clint Eastwood



Playboy Interview, March 1997

Q: "How would you characterize yourself politically?"

A: "Libertarian... Everyone leaves everyone else alone."

Eastwood on Government (from *Parade Magazine*, January 12, 1997):

"Abuse of power isn't limited to bad guys in other nations. It happens in our own country if we're not vigilant. "At Waco, was there really an urgency to get those people out of the compound at that particular time? Was the press going

to make it look heroic for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms? At Ruby Ridge, there was one guy in a cabin at the top of the mountain. Was it necessary for federal agents to go up there and shoot a 14-year-old in the back and shoot a woman with a child in her arms? What kind of mentality does that?

"Those in power get jaded, deluded, and seduced by power itself. The hunger for absolute power and, more to the point, the abuse of power, are part of human nature."

Photo and text from Advocates for Self Government, www.self-gov.org

Are you in the loop?

Wallnet.org provides two mailing list discussion groups for NJLP members. To subscribe to either is easy! Just go to <http://www.njlp.org/partyinfo.php> and put your email address in the box (or boxes) of your choice - one is for "announce" the other is for "liberty-talk".



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CALL TOLL FREE
1 800 201-NJLP

I want to become a member of the Libertarian Party! I have checked the level at which I want to join and have enclosed the corresponding dues. I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

(Signature required for membership only) ☒ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Occupation & Employer _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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Membership Level: ☐ \$40 - Both National LP & NJLP ☐ \$25 - National LP only ☐ \$15 - New Jersey LP only

Newsletter subscription(s) are included with your membership(s).

Make check payable to NJLP and mail to: NJLP c/o Robert Hull 400 Higgins Ave Ste B Brielle NJ 08730-1414

Donation

☐ Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ to help the NJLP in its efforts to expand individual liberty.

Send to a Friend

☐ I have a friend who might be interested in the NJLP. Please send a complimentary copy of the *New Jersey Libertarian* to:

